



**BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY.**

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**Annual Reports**  
OF  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**and Sanitary Inspector**  
FOR  
**1950**

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MILLER THE PRINTER : BEWDLEY. Tel. 164.






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## **WATER AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

Alderman R. B. JACKSON (Chairman)

Councillor W. J. PURCELL, J.P. (Mayor)

Alderman H. N. FROST, J.P., C.A. (Deputy Mayor)

Alderman P. W. PALMER

Councillor MRS. D. L. LAWRENCE, C.C.

Councillor MRS. P. W. N. PHILLIPS

Councillor F. T. BISHOP

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Councillor B. INCE

Councillor W. E. JAMES

Councillor G. H. POTTER

Councillor C. R. F. THRELFALL, M.C., M.A.

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### **OFFICERS**

DR. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

MR. S. J. ROWE, M.Inst.R.A., F.I.Hsg.

Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

MR. E. N. SINCLAIR, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BEWDLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1950.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, the report is divided into the following sections:—

- " A " Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.
- " B " General Provision of Health Services for the Area.
- " C " Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.
- " D " Housing.
- " E " Inspection and Supervision of Food.
- " F " Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.



## SECTION "A"

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) ... ..	3,681
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to Rate Books ... ..	1,416
Rateable Value ... ..	£19,973
Sum represented by One Penny Rate ... ..	£77/7/1.386d.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1950) ... ..	4,900

The principal sources of employment are carpet weaving at Kidderminster, light engineering and other similar undertakings outside the district, and a limited number employed on agriculture. In addition a few are employed in nearby small mines.

Within the district there is a small needle factory where only female labour is employed, a saw mill, a factory processing feeding stuffs and seeds, and remaining from the old Bewdley industries, a brass foundry, rope works and leather works.

### Vital Statistics for the Area.

#### Live Births.

	1950				1949			
	Total.	Male.	Female.	...	Total.	Male.	Female.	...
Legitimate .....	81	37	44	...	77	40	37	...
Illegitimate .....	6	5	1	...	3	2	1	...
Total .....	87	42	45		80	42	38	

The Live Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of the Borough was: 1950 17.7 (1949 16.5).

The Live Birth rate for England and Wales was: 1950 15.8 (1949 16.7).

#### Still Births.

	1950				1949			
	Total.	Male.	Female.	...	Total.	Male.	Female.	...
Legitimate .....	3	1	2	...	1	—	1	...
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	...
Total .....	3	1	2		1	—	1	

The Still Birth rate per 1,000 births (Live and Still) was: 1950 33.3 (1949 12.3).

The Still Birth rate for England and Wales was: 1950 0.37 (1949 0.39).

	1950				1949			
	Total.	Male.	Female.	...	Total.	Male.	Female.	...
Deaths .....	68	31	37	...	70	37	33	...

The Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was: 1950 13.8 (1949 14.49).

The Death rate for the whole of England and Wales was: 1950 11.6 (1949 11.7).

### Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths of mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

The Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 12.3 in 1949.

The Maternal Mortality rate for the whole of England and Wales was: 1950 0.86 (1949 0.98).

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	1950				1949		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	...	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate .....	4	2	2	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—	...	—	—	—
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2		<hr/> 1	<hr/> —	<hr/> 1

The Infantile Mortality rate was: 1950 45.9 (1949 12.5).

The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales was: 1950 29.8 (1949 32).

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	14
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...	...	1

### Causes of Death.

Ref. No.					Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	2	1
6.	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	1	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	1
10, 11, 12, 13, 14.	Cancer	...	...	...	7	7
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	2	7
18, 19, 20.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	7	13
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	2
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	...	...	...	3	3
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	1	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
					<hr/> 31	<hr/> 37



## SECTION "B"

### **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

The examination of food, milk and water is carried out by the County Council Laboratory and other examinations by the Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

### **Ambulance Service.**

This is provided by Worcestershire County Council as Local Health Authority and is based on Kidderminster.

### **Home Nursing and Health Visiting.**

There are two District Nurses available in the Borough, one for Bewdley and the other for Wribbenhall. The Wribbenhall nurse also acts as Health Visitor, a duty which is carried out in Bewdley by a separate Health Visitor.

### **Clinics.**

An Ante-natal Clinic is held once a fortnight at the Wribbenhall Parish Room, a doctor being in attendance monthly.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is also held fortnightly with a doctor in attendance monthly, when Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination are carried out.

### **Hospitals.**

The following hospitals administered by the Midland Regional Hospital Board are available:—

1. The Kidderminster General Hospital for general medical and surgical cases.
2. The Blakebrook Infirmary.
3. The Hayley Green Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
4. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport.
5. The Croft Maternity Home.

### **Tuberculosis.**

A dispensary is held twice weekly at the Kidderminster General Hospital, and a Sanatorium is situated at Knightwick (Regional Board). In addition, an ex-American Army Hospital has been converted and was opened during the year as St. Wulstan's, at Malvern.

### **After-Care.**

An After-Care Sub-Committee administers this service in this district in conjunction with the other districts in the Kidderminster Divisional Area.

### **Venereal Disease.**

A treatment centre is operated at the Kidderminster General Hospital by the Regional Hospital Board.

### **Domestic Help Service.**

Under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority, a Home Help Service has been established in the district and is administered locally by the W.V.S.

### **Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948.**

No action has been taken by the Council under this section during the year.

## SECTION "C"

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supply.

1. The water supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.
2. Samples of water for bacteriological analysis are taken monthly and for complete chemical analysis twice yearly.
3. The water is not plumbo-solvent.
4. No action was necessary for any form of contamination of the piped water supply.
- 5a. The number of houses supplied from the public water mains direct to houses is 1,349. Population supplied approximately 4,620.
- 5b. 52 houses are supplied by standpipes; population supplied 180. 20 houses obtain water from private supplies; population supplied 69.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

The greater part of the district has a sewer available. Sewage is pumped to the Disposal Works used jointly by the Borough of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn U.D.C., and the Borough of Bewdley. This system has proved satisfactory.

No serious nuisance has arisen, modifications and improvements are carried out as required, and efforts are being made to get the remaining houses at present found to be on the old culvert system, connected to the main sewer.

## SECTION "D"

#### Housing.

24 houses were completed by the Corporation during the year. In addition 6 houses were completed by private enterprise.

At the end of the year there still remained 369 applications for Council houses. It is quite clear that the present rate of house building is insufficient to maintain the number of housing applicants at the same level or less. In fact, ground is being lost, which is a very serious situation for the people of the district.

Of the 24 houses completed, 6 were bungalows for old people, the tenants being selected from couples occupying the larger type Council houses. These have proved very popular with the old folk concerned and have enabled exchanges to be made with the minimum of inconvenience. As a result a number of larger families have obtained adequate accommodation.

#### Camping Sites.

The five licensed Camping Sites in the Borough are inspected regularly by the Health Department.

There has been very little nuisance throughout the year except at one site where the disposal of night soil leaves much to be desired. The owner of the site has been instructed to provide improved facilities.

During the year, the question of camping sites has received considerable attention from the County Council, but wholly as a planning matter. The question of camping sites is a matter of great public health importance and, particularly when new sites are under consideration, public health aspects should not be subordinated to those of planning.

When planning a camping site it may appear desirable to site it away from the public eye, but the provision of a safe water supply, the disposal of latrine contents and collection of refuse must not be forgotten. In addition it should be accessible for general supervision by the Health Department.

### SECTION "E"

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

#### Food Poisoning.

There was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

### SECTION "F"

#### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year either at Clinics, Schools, or by the General Practitioners, was as follows :

1. Aged 0 - 4 years inclusive	...	49
2. Aged 5 - 14 years inclusive	...	1
3. Reinforcing Doses	... ..	14
Total ... ..		64

At the end of 1950 the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups 0-5 and 5-14 were 51.9 and 37.6 respectively.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Most unfortunately, immunisation had to be suspended during the summer months when poliomyelitis was prevalent, owing to a suspicion that any form of intra-muscular injection might become the site of paralysis in a subject carrying the virus. There is little doubt that this suspension had an adverse effect on the numbers which could be immunised during the year and has been a setback in our efforts to persuade parents to have their children protected against diphtheria.

#### Notifications.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths Total
Scarlet Fever ... ..	5	—	—
Measles ... ..	75	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	11	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	1	2
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	1	1	1

## Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—...	—	—	—
65 & up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	2	1	—	—

## Conclusion.

The sanitary conditions and the services provided in the Borough have remained generally satisfactory during the year.

The question of old and unfit properties referred to last year is no nearer a solution. It is most unfortunate that not even the minimum repairs necessary to keep out the weather have been carried out in a number of cases. It is to be hoped that the Council will use their powers to ensure that this work is done either by the owners or by the Council in default.

With regard to new house building, it is sad to have to record that progress here is not even keeping pace with the number of housing applications received. Nothing should be allowed to delay progress with this outstanding problem, which affects the public health to such a large degree.

I should like to thank the Mayor, Members of the Council and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1950

## Housing.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. Six houses were completed during the year.

CORPORATION. Twenty-four houses were completed on the Bark Hill Estate during the year.

SQUATTERS CAMPS. Most of the galvanised sheets of which the Nissen Huts are constructed deteriorated to such an extent that they were no longer weatherproof and it was found impossible to obtain new sheets to replace them. A scheme to weatherproof the huts by means of layers of bitumen and hessian was submitted to the Ministry of Health and finally approved by them. It is hoped that this method will achieve the twofold purpose of making the huts weatherproof and reducing the amount of condensation peculiar to these huts.

## House Refuse.

House refuse is collected weekly in the town and once every fortnight in outlying areas, and is taken to the authorised tip on the outskirts of the town.

## Trade Refuse.

In addition to the removal of house refuse, 15-cwts. of trade refuse are removed and disposed of weekly.

## Salvage.

No salvage was collected during the year.

## Rodent Control.

The following rodent infestations have been dealt with during the year.

Private Dwellings	...	...	196
Business Premises	...	...	21
Other Infestations	...	...	13
			<hr/>
			230
			<hr/>

## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

During the year 16 tins of varied foodstuffs, 20 stone of fish, 22lbs. of cheese, 36lbs. of sausage and 18lbs. of butter were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Food preparing premises are inspected regularly to ensure a satisfactory standard of hygiene. Improvements are being carried out to two bakehouses as a result of representations from this department.

Animals for human consumption are not slaughtered in the Borough.

## Tents, Vans and Sheds.

During the year many attempts have been made to site caravans on unauthorised camping sites, and I am pleased that firm action has been taken by the Council to control this problem.

It would also appear that persons who state that they are members of the Caravan Club and thereby exempt under certain conditions from obtaining a licence from the Local Authority are in fact taking advantage of their membership to reside permanently in caravans.

Action was taken against one member, however, who was found to be subletting his caravan, and the vehicle was removed from the site.

A further case of Caravan Club members and dealing with two caravans on an unauthorised site is now under consideration.

There are five licensed camping sites in the Borough which are inspected regularly.

These sites are provided with town's main water supply, refuse is collected by the Corporation and sanitation is by means of pan closets which are emptied by the owners. One owner has been warned with regard to the disposal of the contents of the pan closets and action will be taken if found necessary.

## Inspections.

The following is a list of inspections carried out:—

Dwelling Houses .....	476
Factories .....	7
Nuisances .....	17
Dairies and Cowsheds .....	2
Infectious Diseases .....	8
Food Premises .....	26
Drainage .....	186
Rodent Infestation .....	7
Tents, Vans and Sheds ....	51
Other Inspections .....	14
	<hr/>
	794
	<hr/>

I am,

Your obedient servant,

S. J. ROWE,

Sanitary Inspector.





